

DEATHS DUE TO HEART DISEASE AND CANCER

Maine: 2001 (Preliminary)

→ 12,393 Maine residents died in 2001. More than half of these deaths (6,300) were due to heart disease (3,261) and cancer (3,039), the two leading causes of death in Maine and the nation. Since 1999, heart disease deaths have declined both nationally and in Maine, while cancer deaths remained relatively stable.

→ Maine's 2001 death rate due to heart disease, 219 deaths /100,000 population, ranked 31st in the nation and was significantly lower than the U.S. rate (243 deaths/100,000 population).

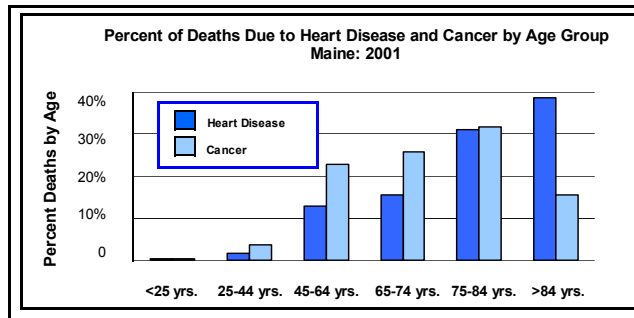
→ Nationally, Maine's cancer death rate (207/100,000) was significantly higher than the U.S. rate (194/100,000), ranking 8th highest in the nation and the highest in New England.

State	Death Rate/100,000 Population	
	Heart Disease	Cancer
United States	243	194
Rhode Island	242	202
New Hampshire	231	195
Vermont	222	196
MAINE	219	207
Connecticut	215	188
Massachusetts	212	201

Shading indicates rate is significantly different from Maine's rate

→ Heart disease and cancer deaths occur with greater frequency in old age. In both Maine and the U.S., residents aged 65 years and over accounted for approximately 80% of deaths due to these two causes. In Maine, this age group accounted for only about 14% of the population but 85% of heart disease deaths and 73% of cancer deaths. While the number of heart disease deaths continued to climb with age, cancer deaths declined from 32% for those aged 75-84 years, to half that (16%) for those over 84 years.

→ Residents younger than 45 years old accounted for just over 60% of the population, but for less than 2% of heart disease deaths and only 4% of cancer deaths. These percents were consistent with national figures.



Notes: Heart disease deaths are deaths attributed to ICD-10 cause of death codes I00.0-I09.9, I11.0-I11.9, I13.0-I13.9, I20.0-I51.9 and cancer deaths to codes C00.0-C97.9. All rates are for underlying cause of death and are age-adjusted to the US 2000 standard population; these rates have been standardized to eliminate differences due solely to variations in the age composition of the populations. National data are for whites only and were obtained from CDC Wonder. Because of the change in 1999 from ICD-9 to ICD-10 cause of death codes, comparisons by cause of death with earlier years cannot be made. Unless noted, differences in rates are statistically significant, i.e., they could not be accounted for by chance alone.

For further data on this topic, please contact:
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